EAST TIMOR.
A PEOPLE'S WAR.

British Campaign for Independent East Timor.

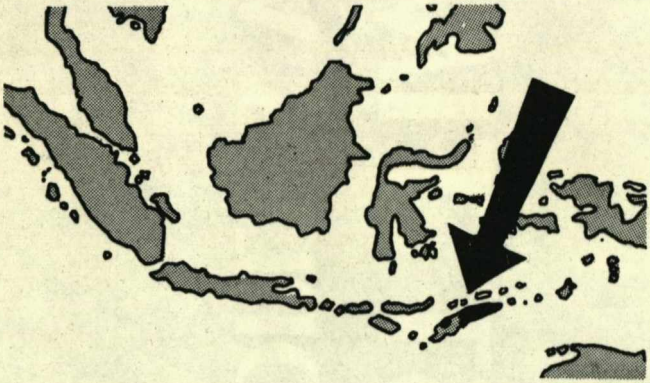
TL4079

EAST TIMOR

ON DECEMBER 7th, 1975, THE ARMED FORCES OF INDONESIA INVADED THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR. THE INVASION FOLLOWED MONTHS OF THREATS AND ARMED INCURSIONS ACROSS THE BORDER WITH INDONESIAN TIMOR, AND RESULTED IN HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

Indonesia invaded because of its inability to tolerate a democratic state on its borders - a state which is the product of people struggling to liberate themselves from the effects of 400 years of Portuguese colonialism.

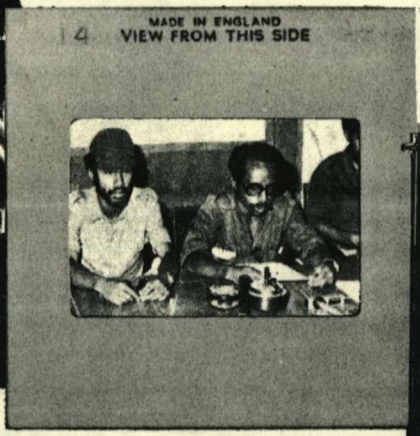
The notoriously corrupt Indonesian regime, which came to power in 1965 - 66 with the massacre of hundreds of thousands of its opponents - trades unionists and all those connected with democratic parties and organisations - could not tolerate the emergence on its borders of a democratic republic with an economic programme based on the needs of the people and not those of a military elite.



The Democratic Republic of East Timor was established on November 28th, 1975, under the leadership of FRETILIN - the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor. With the FRETILIN government, the people of East Timor were beginning to undo the effects of Portuguese colonialism, establishing health schemes to combat endemic malaria and to reduce the 50% infant mortality rate endowed by the Portuguese system; launching a literacy scheme against the 90% illiteracy rate. Agricultural co-operatives had been established and plans were being drawn up for crop diversification in an attempt to improve the living conditions of a people living mostly from subsistence agriculture.

RESOURCES

BECAUSE BRITISH PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR IS SO SCANT. WE HAVE PUT MOST OF OUR EFFORTS INTO ASSEMBLING A RANGE OF INFORMATIVE MATERIALS AS DESCRIBED BELOW. WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR GROUP WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONVENIENCE OF THESE MATERIALS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AN UNDERPUBLICISED BUT SIGNIFICANT LIBERATION STRUGGLE.



Film

"TIMOR, ISLAND OF FEAR, ISLAND OF HOPE" is a 25-minute colour film made mostly in East Timor by the Australian camera crew who were subsequently shot to death by Indonesian soldiers in October 1975. It was filmed during the months of undisputed FRETILIN control, and includes interviews with a FRETILIN minister and an imprisoned UDT leader, a FRETILIN rally, the preparation of the East Timorese army and people to defend their homeland, and the early attacks of Indonesian troops against the border. The film also shows the testimony of East Timor's Foreign Minister, Jose Ramos Horta, and of Australian Senator Ken Fry, at the United Nations. The film dramatically illustrates support for FRETILIN amongst the East Timorese people and their determination to win total independence. (16 mm, optical soundtrack.)

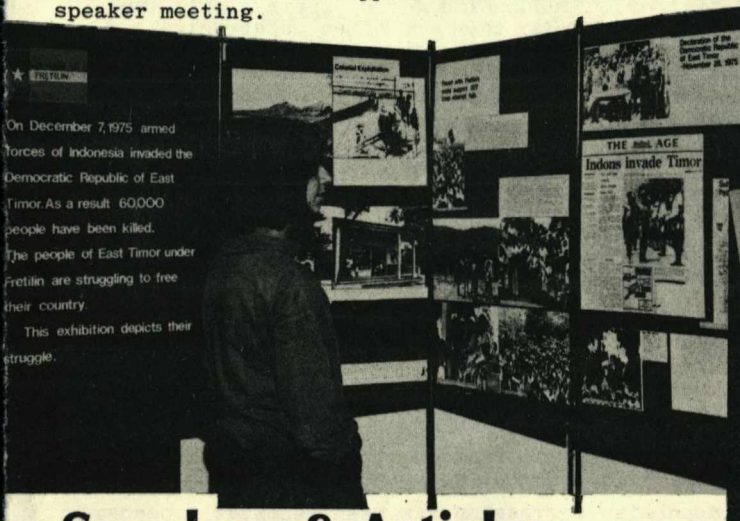
Slides

"INDONESIA - OUT OF EAST TIMOR!" is a slide programme prepared by our committee to give a more systematic introduction to recent East Timorese history. Aspects dealt with are: the effects of Portuguese colonialism; the development of East Timorese politics after the Lisbon Armed Forces Movement coup; the three parties - UDT, APODETI

and FRETILIN, and their respective programmes; the attempted UDT coup and its defeat by FRETILIN; the period of FRETILIN administration; Indonesian harrassment, and the invasion. The programme also describes the political situation in Indonesia, the repressive nature of the military regime, and the background to the invasion. This slide show can be bought from us as well as hired. (79 slides, 35 mm, with supplied script; approx. 40 mins. duration)

Exhibition

Our EXHIBITION is designed to present basically the same material as our slide show, but in a different medium. It uses photographs, maps, press clippings and commentary, mounted onto sixteen boards which form an integrated free-standing unit. It is quite easy to assemble, and is of use primarily within larger events, at conferences or in support of a film or a speaker meeting.

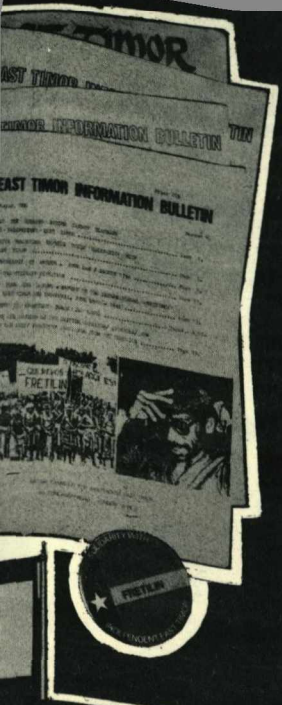

On December 7, 1975 armed forces of Indonesia invaded the Democratic Republic of East Timor. As a result 60,000 people have been killed.
The people of East Timor under Fretilin are struggling to free their country.
This exhibition depicts their struggle.
Colonial Exploitation
THE AGE
Indons invade Timor

Speakers & Articles

We can supply your meeting or conference with speakers who can talk on the latest developments, the international significance of the war in East Timor, the role of Britain, Australia or the U.S.A., political oppression in Indonesia, what can de done to assist the struggle in East Timor, or other topics not covered by our less flexible resource materials. We can also supply original articles for your journal or newspaper, complete with photographs, maps and cartoons.

Maps & Literature

We have large colour MAPS of East Timor, showing every village and major streams and tracks. Relief is shown through shading at 500 metre contour intervals, and there are inset maps showing East Timor's position in the world, and its economic life and resources. (85 cm x 59 cm; 4 colour; £1.15.)



EAST TIMOR INFORMATION BULLETIN

THE BULLETIN IS THE MEANS WHEREBY THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES A REGULAR NEWS SERVICE ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN EAST TIMOR. A DAY-TO-DAY CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IS OUR MAIN FEATURE; WE ALSO PRINT ANALYTICAL ARTICLES ON THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR AND INDONESIA, AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

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SUBSCRIPTION: For 12 issues...

BRITAIN/IRELAND £1.50

OVERSEAS £2.50

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

THE STRUGGLE FOR EAST TIMOR - pamphlet: contains FRETILIN's programme and policy statements. 25 pence.

EAST TIMOR - THE HIDDEN WAR - book, by D.Franke: a well-documented account of the situation in East Timor. 80 pence.

EAST TIMOR: PEOPLE'S WAR - pamphlet: a new publication of the Ministry of External Relations, Democratic Republic of East Timor. Describes the struggle for independence, reproduces U.N. resolutions on Timor. Includes a map and photographs. 30 pence.

POSTER showing the FRETILIN flag, in three colours. 10 pence.

BADGES with the FRETILIN flag plus the words:Solidarity with Independent East Timor. 10 pence.

PLEASE ADD A REASONABLE SUM FOR POSTAGE AND PACKING.

CAMPAIGN

STATEMENT OF AIMS

The British Campaign for an Independent East Timor:

CONDEMNS the armed invasion of the Democratic Republic of East Timor on December 7th 1975

RECOGNISES and supports the independent state of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, established on November 28th, 1975

SUPPORTS FRETILIN as the only political organisation with popular support in East Timor

AND THEREFORE CALLS upon the British Government and all governments to:

CONDEMN INDONESIA'S CONSTANT VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE

CONDEMN THE FULL-SCALE ARMED INVASION OF EAST TIMOR AS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AND AS THE INITIATION OF A STATE OF WAR

RECOGNISE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT

ACT WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THESE MEASURES

SPONSORSHIP

B.C.I.E.T. is sponsored by the following:

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ERNIE ROBERTS - Assistant Secretary AUEW
ALAN SAPPER - General Secretary ACTT
ARTHUR CLEGG

THE CAMPAIGN IS VERY SHORT OF MONEY. Therefore, whatever YOU can do within your own organisation MAKES A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE. If you are interested in helping us further our aims, PLEASE CONTACT US.

40 Concanon Road
LONDON SW2
01-274 9308, 5945

FIGHTS BACK!

Born of the struggle against Portuguese rule, FRETILIN developed into a movement supported by the mass of the people, who recognised in its programme the path to a new future for their country. Since the invasion, FRETILIN has led the people in their struggle for national liberation. Under its leadership, the people of East Timor have taken up arms against the invaders, and have fought back against the massive Indonesian military presence. Up to 60,000 East Timorese - more by some estimates - have been killed since the invasion began. And yet Indonesia has failed to conquer East Timor, still less integrate it. FRETILIN still controls the majority of the territory. Indonesian forces control only the towns and roads; they are often under seige and they cannot venture beyond the range of their artillery. Food is being grown in the FRETILIN-run areas, schools are being set up and also a Red Cross, which in the absence of qualified doctors is using traditional herbal medicine to tend to the sufferings of the people.

In the Indonesian-held areas, massacres of the civilian population have been widely reported, starvation is rife and torture widespread. Even those few East Timorese who once supported integration with Indonesia have realised that integration means starvation and exploitation, and have expressed their sympathy with FRETILIN.

For over a year the odds against FRETILIN and the liberation struggle of the East Timorese people have seemed overwhelming. And yet their brave slogan "INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH!" expresses their determination not to give up the struggle for total independence.

Indonesian aggression has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations and by progressive governments and organisations throughout the world. There are now active solidarity campaigns in Australia, the U.S.A., Sweden, Germany, France, Holland and Britain. The struggle for the independence of East Timor is one which must be supported by all who loathe imperialism. It must also be given the publicity it has been denied in Europe. Previous struggles have shown the important role that can be played by solidarity movements in publicising and supporting the struggle of oppressed peoples.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR IS VITAL.

A STRUGGLE WHICH IS BASED IN THE EFFORTS OF A WHOLE PEOPLE, A STRUGGLE WHICH WILL END IN VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE, MUST RECEIVE YOUR SUPPORT!

·LEAFLET DESIGNED BY CONRAD.